

The Brooklyn Paper

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CHARTING THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR OUR STREETS



Photo by Steven Schimbel

SLOW GOING

McGuinness speed limit lowered to 25

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A mile-long stretch of McGuinness Boulevard in Greenpoint will get the car-pinching treatment from the city, cops announced on Tuesday.

The city will lower the speed limit on the fast-moving thoroughfare that leads up to the Pulaski Bridge to 25 miles per hour and rejigger its traffic sig-



The battle for Brooklyn's byways

nals in an effort to avoid more deaths like the four the road has seen since 2008. A local activist hailed the move.

"I think it will help prevent

deaths and any step we can take to slow traffic is progress," said John Beadle, a member of the Kings County Democratic Committee.

The official Slow Zone will start at Freeman Street at the base of the Pulaski Bridge and extend all the way to Bayard Street, just short of the Brooklyn–Queens Expressway. The city will also

See **SPEED** on page 9



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Fulton connects

Downtown scores a new wifi hot-spot

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Fulton Mall shoppers can now go online while standing on line.

The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership launched a new wireless internet hot-spot on Fulton

Mall on Thursday, bringing free internet access to patrons and businesses in and around one of Brooklyn's busiest shopping centers. The project is meant to bring the area up to speed, said Borough President Adams at an event celebrating the flip of a

switch.

"Fulton Mall has always been a 20th-century center marketplace for Brooklyn," said Adams, after posing with a group for some self-portraits, which he took with his and other peo-

See **WIFI** on page 4

Slope cops' traffic paradox

78th Precinct makes waves, but trails boro in tickets

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope's police precinct has made cracking down on drivers its signature issue, but the neighborhood's girls and boys in blue have handed out many fewer tickets so far this year than most other Brooklyn precincts.

The neighborhood's 78th police precinct gave out 2,104 moving violations from January to March, 252 more than in the first three months of 2013 — which probably has something to do with the series of ticketing blitzes it has gone on since January, including an undercover failure-to-yield-to-pedestrians sting operation and crack-downs on parking in bike lanes and unlicensed dollar vans. But the total is less than the amount doled out by all but three of the borough's 23 precincts. Among the area road-safety activists who are quick to criticize those they perceive as going easy on motorists, the 78th's light-on-citations record has plenty of defenders, one of whom says that it made a point of making nice with the neighbors.

"The 78th has made a name for itself because it has done a tremendous amount of positive community outreach," said Keegan Stephan, an organizer with



Community Newspaper Group

Wait a minute!

Cop's illegal turn on Flatbush

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

This NYPD school safety officer needs to go back to driver's ed.

The cop behind the wheel of a law-enforcement vehicle van in Prospect Heights bla-

tantly ignored a sign forbidding left turns on Flatbush Avenue and veered across oncoming traffic onto Park Place around 1:30 pm on Thursday.

The van did not have its flashing lights or siren active. See **TURN** on page 9

the group Right of Way.

For the sake of comparison, the 75th Precinct in East New York handed out 5,694 traffic summonses in the first three months of this year, the most of any Brooklyn station house despite logging a 382-ticket drop from last year. But the 75th's most-written tickets by far were for tinted windows (987), 10 times the number handed out in the 78th, and the miscellaneous "Other" category (1,298), while it wrote just 71 for failure to yield to pedestrians and 89 for speeding, the categories pedestrian and cyclist advocates say are the most important.

"It's about quality, not quantity," Transportation Alternatives lawyer Juan Martinez said. "Drivers who expect to get caught don't break the law."

In Park Slope and Prospect Heights, where officers wrote two-fifths the amount of tickets of their East New York counterparts overall, they cited 90 drivers for speeding and 85 for failure to yield, up from 55 and 17 by this time last year, respectively.

The goal of the driver-pinch movement backed by Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero plan is to change behavior, not to punish people or stir up revenue, so tick-

See **TICKETS** on page 9

LICH to close May 23

State says it's missing bidder's paperwork

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

The state is walking away from Long Island College Hospital on May 23 and turning off the lights now that a developer that pledged to keep the hospital open is facing mounting difficulty getting its ducks in a row, the state said.

The State University of New York expects to shutter the 156-year-old Cobble Hill institution before Brooklyn Health



Partners, the winning bidder to take over the hospital, can obtain an operating certificate from the Department of Health for a temporary medical facility, according to a letter sent from university lawyers to anti-closure attorneys. Activists said that, despite a court settlement that allows the state to wash its hands of the medical facility after May 22, officials ought to pitch in to keep it open a little longer, now

See **LICH** on page 9



Photo by Jason Speakman

Dynamighty founder Terrence Kelleman kicks back in one of his new cardboard chairs.

Get on board

Paper chairs just the beginning at this new Dumbo concept store

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

This guy is chairman of the cardboard.

Terrence Kelleman, the founder of Dynamighty, a company best known for its paper-thin wallets, opened a storefront and shared artist work-space in Dumbo on April 16 and decked the place out with cardboard seating. The chairs are made from three pieces of thick cardboard cut with lasers and can be shipped flat and assembled in a jiffy. The engineering feat came out of Kelleman's dissatisfaction with the seat-us quo when trying to furnish the shop.

"I just couldn't find anything I liked," he said. "The chairs I was seeing were just the blandest things."

Kelleman started Dynamighty 12 years ago in his living room, with a box of magnets that his father lent him \$300 to buy. He made link-less bracelets out of the magnets and sold them to his employer, the Museum of Modern Art Design Store in Manhattan.

"I was a struggling artist trying to find my way," Kelleman said. "But I've always been inquisitive about materials."

Kelleman trained as a painter at the

See **STORE** on page 9

Body found in Gowanus Canal

His cause of death still unknown

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

A man's corpse was found floating in the Gowanus Canal on Monday afternoon, according to police.

The body was spotted in the fetid waterway beneath the Union Street bridge at 3 pm, an officer said. Fire personnel fished the fellow, who was fully clothed, out of the channel and pronounced him dead on the scene, cops said.

Officials have not identified the deceased but say he was discovered wearing gray sweatpants and a blue sweatshirt.

Divers were in the water investigating the scene at 5 pm, a witness said.

Department of Environmental Protection workers were also on hand.

The medical examiner's office will perform an autopsy and try to determine the cause of death, police stated.



Photo by Jason Speakman



Photo by Jason Speakman

Boerum Hill resident Ethan Hawke shows off his dribbling skills.

Getting kicks for charity

TV, movie types play soccer in Brooklyn Bridge Park

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Media mavens had a ball on Brooklyn Bridge Park's soccer fields over the weekend.

The occasion was the New York Film and Entertainment Soccer Tournament, a dogooder competition that took over Pier 5 on Saturday. The all-day charity event included a so-called "celebrity match" that included crew members from popular television shows, reality TV personalities, pro soccer players, and actor Ethan Hawke. The pitched on-field battle was nothing compared

to the rigors of working on set, an organizer said.

"The media arts are a lot of fun. There's a lot of play. But they're also very intense industries," said tournament founder Dylan Leiner, a vice president at Sony Pictures Classics. "This is a chance to unwind."

The competition is in its third year and the cash it raised benefited the Claudio Reyna Foundation and City Soccer in the Community, groups that promote youth soccer in poor areas. In addition to the entertainment industry tourna-

ment, which included more than 200 players from Comedy Central, NBC, and Nickelodeon who paid to participate, the event also featured youth soccer clinics run by former pro ball-players.

Organizers circulated an event flyer that showed Stephen Colbert squaring off with Jon Stewart, but neither funny man showed up. The staffs of their respective shows did play, with Team Colbert coming out on top.

Boerum Hill resident Ethan Hawke turned out with his daughter Indiana.

He played defense during the 30-minute celeb game that also featured some retired pro footballers, and the winner of "Survivor: Africa."

Hawke, who attended the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn Heights for a short time when he was growing up, is a big fan of the growing park in Brooklyn's front yard.

"This is awesome," he said. "I love it down here."

The soccer fields opened in late 2012 and are made of synthetic turf laid over padding made of sand and coconut fibers.

Sunset Park loves surveillance!

Cameras big winner at budget vote

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Sunset Park residents asked for it and they are getting it — more government surveillance.

Neighborhood denizens were invited to pick a municipal project to fund from an array of neighborhood beautification and social service options

as part of the so-called "participatory budgeting" process and their number-one priority was installing more surveillance cameras on Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth avenues between 42nd and 62nd streets. The measure will make would-be smooth criminals feel like someone is watching them, said a facilitator of the voting.

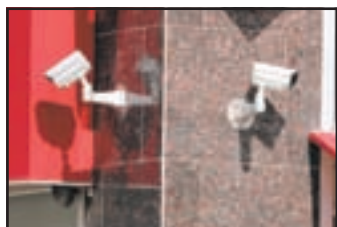


Photo by Steven Schimbel

Security cameras at the corner of Eighth Avenue and 47th Street.

"When people try to commit a crime, they will think twice, and this will help scare away potential suspects," Jimmy Li said.

The fact that 1,890 people voted to have their every move monitored by eyes in the sky, more people than favored any other initiative on the table, proves once again that Brooklyn loves surveillance despite growing concerns worldwide about spy agencies trampling

See **CAMERAS** on page 4



The Brooklyn Hospital Center’s

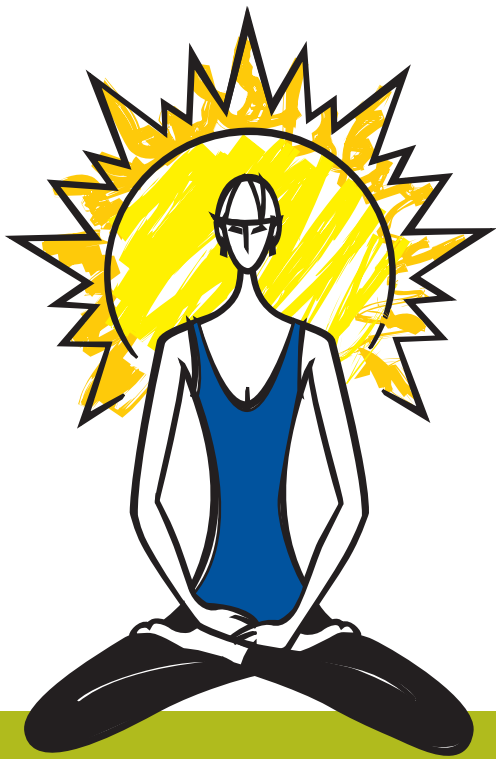
Keeping Brooklyn Healthy Contest Winner!

WE ASKED BROOKLYN FOR ADVICE ON STAYING HEALTHY IN NYC’S GREATEST BOROUGH. HERE’S WHAT ONE CONTEST WINNER HAD TO SAY!



The Brooklyn Hospital Center

“Practice calming Yoga by the seashore at Coney Island!”
—Shannon Meminger, East New York



Visit

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to see all of the top tips on Keeping Healthy in Brooklyn!

Coney concerts canceled

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Coney Island will go silent this summer. Ex-Borough President Marty Markowitz’s Seaside Concert series will not rock the People’s Playground for the first time in 35 years, sources say. “So far as I know, there are no plans to do it this summer at all,” said Chuck Reichenthal, district manager of the neighborhood’s Community Board 13. Borough President Adams’s office confirmed that the music series would be taking this summer off, due

to construction at the venue site — which will create an amphitheater adjacent to the landmarked Childs restaurant building to provide a permanent home to the concerts. Reichenthal wondered if perhaps the shows — which last year featured acts like Cheap Trick, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Smokey Robinson — might lack the necessary funding and organization to continue after Markowitz’s departure from elected office in January. “They were Marty’s baby,” said Reichenthal. Markowitz started the free concert series in Coney Is-

land’s Asser Levy Park in 1978, while he was serving in the state Senate, and ran them through a private organization. They received both public funding and corporate sponsorship, and were attended by thousands each year. But they were not without controversy. In 2008, Markowitz proposed building an amphitheater with a much-mocked potato chip-shaped roof in the park as a permanent home for the performances — triggering a successful lawsuit by Brighton Beach residents, who convinced a judge that the concerts violated city statutes

by having amplified sound too close to a pair of synagogues. As a result, the shows were exiled to a cramped lot at W. 21st Street and Surf Avenue in 2011 — much to fans’ chagrin. Markowitz succeeded last year in getting city — if not neighborhood — approval for another amphitheater to be built into the landmark Childs Building. Reichenthal expects the concerts will resume after construction on the new venue wraps up in 2015. Calls to Markowitz for comment were not immediately returned.

A warehouse divided

Saint Ann’s getting its new home ready in Dumbo

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

This building is on its fourth act. The new home of Saint Ann’s Warehouse is under construction in the roof-less shell of the Tobacco Warehouse on Water Street in Dumbo and we got a sneak peek at the work that is underway. The \$30-million construction job will place a shiny, steel-and-glass box within the confines of the old brick walls, leaving about an inch of space to preserve them. Honchos of the neighboring Brooklyn Bridge Park give the design rave reviews.

“It’s a great design,” said David Lowin, vice president of real estate for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, which controls the property. “It enhances the street-scape, but remains respectful to the historic building.” The structure, which from above will look like a rectangular box lodged in a trapezoid cubby, will house a theater and a community space and leaves a triangular sliver of open space within the old walls that will contain a public garden.

The new building’s roof will extend about seven feet above the worn facade, enclosing the theater and a community space, with the top portion of the wall made of glass bricks to allow in light.

From the inside, the new playhouse at the corner of New Dock Street will still look something like a place to store dry goods, the architect said.

“You won’t know if you’re in a theater or a warehouse,” said Jonathan Marvel, the project’s architect. “It will have a distinguishing factor that makes it distinctly Saint Ann’s.”

The theater company has been active in the Brooklyn performance scene since 1980, when it started out in Saint Ann’s church on



Saint Ann’s Warehouse’s new theater will sit in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge (top). The rendering (above) shows how the new space will be divided, with the performance space on the left along Old Dock Street, a community area in the middle, and an open-air courtyard on the diagonal edge, bordering New Dock Street. The near right side runs opposite Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights.

After 21 years the company moved to Dumbo, settling in at a vacant warehouse on Water Street in 2001.

It stayed until the building’s owner, Two Trees Management, booted the thespians last year to make way for its Dock Street project.

Until the new digs open in the fall of 2015, Saint Ann’s will stay in its current accommodations around the corner, at Jay and Plymouth streets. But directors of the nomadic theater outfit are al-

ready looking forward to the next big move.

“We’ve been wandering for 34 years,” said Susan Feldman, a founder and the artistic director of the group. “This will be a permanent home. A place to settle.”

Primary among the perks of the new auditorium is the fact that it will have air conditioning, which the theater has lacked for its entire existence, forcing it to stop holding shows during the summer.

The open-air portion of the building will be designed

by landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh, who won an award for his work on portions of Brooklyn Bridge Park. The park is open and expansive, but the garden attached to the theater will be like a courtyard while still offering views of the water through large, glass-less windows.

The warehouse was originally built as a five-story tobacco warehouse in 1860. The construction of New Dock Street in the 1910s shaved off a portion of the building, giving it its odd shape. At some point in the mid-1900s the top three stories were removed. And in the 1990s the state gutted the structure, leaving the freestanding facade that exists today.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation convinced the state to hand over control of the place in 2010. Saint Ann’s is paying for the new building with grants and fund-raising, and will also foot the bill for the maintenance of the space once it is complete. In exchange, the group will get a 30 year lease free of charge, with an option for an additional 20 years.

The group that manages the adjacent mega-park say Saint Ann’s is a perfect fit.

Dems could pick Bklyn

City pitches Barclays as venue for 2016

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn is in the running to be the host of the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

The mayor’s office is pitching the Barclays Center as a possible venue for the Democrats’ quadrennial presidential-candidate nominating ritual. The obvious best choice to host the event appears alongside Manhattan’s played-out Jacob Javits Convention Center and Madi-

son Square Garden in a letter from a deputy of Mayor DeBlasio outlining the virtues of New York to the liberal party’s lead event planner, Democratic National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

“The new Barclays Center, in the heart of Brooklyn, is a multi-purpose venue that can accommodate audiences of up to 18,000,” wrote Alicia Glen, deputy mayor for housing and economic development, in a March 1

letter to the committee first obtained by the New York Daily News.

The missive lumps the Prospect Heights arena in with its aging counterparts in Manhattan in the description that follows.

“Each of these state-of-the-art venues is well-equipped to host the Democratic National Convention Committee’s operations,” the letter says. “Each is also located close to the transit hubs, hotels, restaurants, theaters,

and attractions that inspire more than 54 million people to visit New York City every year.”

The convention would be Brooklyn’s first presidential nominating bash and, drawing tens of thousands of politicians, would be even larger and substantially longer than last year’s MTV Video Music Awards.

A major political convention could be a boon to borough hotels, bars, and restaurants, but would also bring with it a massive security apparatus and possibly major protests.

The mayor’s office brushed aside worries about terrorism, calling New York “America’s safest big city.”



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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

We'll show you dinosaurs!

**FRONT COURT**
By Tom Lafe

The Toronto Raptors are doing everything possible to piss off the Nets.

Terrence Ross said he preferred the Nets' presence to that of the Bulls, the Toronto Sun ran a headline calling Pierce and Garnett dinosaurs, and general manager Masai Ujiri yelled "F--- Brooklyn" at a pep rally, setting him back \$25,000. In other words, the Raptors have been doing a lot of fighting off the court.

But after two games, the Raptors are lucky the series is headed back to Brooklyn knotted at a game apiece.

The Raptors certainly had their chances to make it 2–0. The Nets have embraced small ball, relying on deflections, their long guards, and three-point shooting. So when they went just 4 for 24 from beyond the arc in Game One, including an improbable 19 consecutive missed threes, the Nets left the door open for the Raptors to walk right through.

But Toronto did little to help themselves, turning the ball over 17 times and shooting just 39 percent from the field. Credit the Nets' active defense for those numbers. Raptors big man Jo-



Nets forward Paul Pierce drives to the basket past the Raptors' Amir Johnson during Game Two.

nas Valanciunas did have his way around the basket — 17 points, 18 rebounds — but that is a trade the Nets will take to limit Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan the way they did in Game One.

Every time the Raptors got close down the stretch, those dinosaurs Pierce and Garnett came to life, showing Toronto the importance of veteran leadership. The two combined for 11 straight points — Pierce 9, Garnett 2 — late

in the fourth quarter to put Game One out of reach for the Raptors. They may be old, but like the tyrannosaurus rex in "Jurassic Park," those two have still got it.

Game Two was a slightly different story. In a game that the Raptors had to win, the team from the great white North was able to hold on to the lead late in the fourth quarter as Pierce came up short on a three-point attempt that would have put Brooklyn's

home-team on top with just more than 20 seconds remaining. After trading points, Amir Johnson caught a deflected in-bound pass for an uncontested dunk, effectively squashing the Nets' hopes of winning.

Valanciunas posted a similar stat line in Game Two — 15 points, 14 rebounds — but DeMar DeRozan was the difference in this one, going for 30 points. DeRozan needs to be the Nets' primary focus as the series shifts to Brooklyn.

Changes were made between games one and two: Andrei Kirilenko, surprisingly absent in Game One, did his thing off the bench in round two, showcasing the Nets' depth, and Landry Fields frustrated Joe Johnson, who had done anything he wanted in Game One.

What will Game Three bring? Hopefully more Kirilenko, whose hustle was built for the playoffs.

The adjustments coaches Casey and Kidd make moving forward will be instrumental in determining a winner. But after two games, and nearly securing a 2–0 series lead, the Nets have to feel like they have those little dinos right where they want them.

Tom Lafe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team's big men.

Secrets to small-ball success

**BACK COURT**
By Matt Spolar

Just as in the regular season, Brooklyn will live and die by small ball in the playoffs.

Ever since All-Star center Brook Lopez went down with a season-ending injury in December, the Nets have been rolling out smaller line-ups that prize outside shooting over interior dominance. When the shots are falling, that's quite all right. When they are not, you can end up with what happened on Tues-

day night in Toronto.

"It's basketball. Sometimes they go in, sometimes they don't," coach Jason Kidd said after the 100–95 Game Two loss.

That is, of course, the nature of the game. But it is not a basketball truism that your team is supposed to be out-rebounded by 22 boards like the Nets were on Tuesday. The Raptors notched a game-altering 19 offensive rebounds to keep possession after possession alive. If Brooklyn is going to cede that much ground in the paint, it cannot afford to only make shots "sometimes."

The silver lining in Tues-

day's disappointing result was how similar the contest was to Brooklyn's victory in Game One. For as poorly as Brooklyn shot — 7 of 24 — from three-point range in Game Two, the Nets were even more putrid — 4 of 24 — from beyond the arc in the first game. And for as devastating as a 22-rebound deficit might seem, the Raptors' 15-rebound advantage was nearly as lopsided in Game One.

In fact, the Nets have played some of their best basketball this year while getting destroyed on the glass. In March, the team went 12–4 despite averaging seven fewer

rebounds per game than their opponents.

But during that March stretch, the team also made 40 percent of the shots they took from three-point land. So far this series, Brooklyn's players are shooting just 22 percent on threes. It is encouraging that the team was able to eke out a playoff win north of the border under these less-than-ideal circumstances, but at some point the ball must start going in.

Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team's top-tier guards.


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Pen-stab nightmare on B train

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

Cops arrested a 17-year-old woman who they say stabbed a fellow B-train passenger with a pen on April 9.

The 31-year-old victim told police she was riding a Brighton Beach-bound B train with her husband at 12:20 pm when she got into an argument with a younger woman. As the train pulled into the DeKalb Avenue station, the teen whipped out the writing instrument and started shouting.

“What are you going to do?” the lady supposedly demanded. “Come over here and see what happens.”

As the victim tried to exit the train, the wild woman, unsatisfied, punched her in the head, according to a report. The older woman re-boarded the train as the doors closed to confront her attacker and it pulled away from the station. The teen then stabbed her in the head with the pen, police said.

Grand scam

A hacker siphoned more than \$100,000 out of a State Street man’s bank account between April 3 and 4, police said.

The victim, who lives between Hoyt and Bond streets, told authorities he received an e-mail from his bank on April 4 at 12:06 pm, telling him that five fraudulent transfers were made from his account, totaling \$104,300. The bank recovered \$78,302 of that money, but not the rest, according to a police report.

Sleep suspicion

A thief swiped a sleeping man’s wallet on a Coney Island-bound N train on April 6, according to the authorities.

The victim said he went out for drinks in Manhattan and that when he boarded the train at Herald Square at 3:10 am, his wallet was in his front pocket. He said he fell asleep immediately and did not wake up until the train reached the Atlantic Avenue–Barclays Center stop, at which point he discovered that his billfold had been lifted, cops said.

The wallet contained debit and credit cards, a MetroCard, and \$100 in cash, according to a police report.

Steal-a-meal

An opportunistic crook swiped a woman’s wallet from a table at a Livingston Street restaurant on April 8, police stated.

The diner reported she was in the eatery between Gallatin Place and Hoyt Street at 7:30 pm and left her wallet on a table and walked away. A video shows a lowlife pass by, take the wallet, and walk out the door, according to a police report.

The billfold contained \$60 in cash and debit and credit cards, but the cards were canceled before any charges were made, the report states.

Electric fenced

A sneak-thief swiped a Livingston Street office worker’s electronics from his desk on April 9, cops said.

The 24-year-old who works between Boerum Place and Court Street said he left his phone, headphones, and electronic tablet charging at his cubicle at 11:20 am, and that when he returned 35 minutes later the devices had disappeared.

Crash course

A cretin stole a 24-year-old woman’s car from Wiloughby Street on April 11, police reported.

The lady told police she parked the four-door sedan between Lawrence and Bridge streets at 2:00 pm and walked to a doctor’s appointment, leaving the door unlocked and the keys inside. When she came back 15 minutes later the car had vanished, a police report states.

Cops from Fort Greene’s 88th Precinct found the auto after it was involved in a crash, the report says.

Crush hour

A creep filched a wallet from a lady’s purse on a crowded Manhattan-bound C train at High Street on April 10, law enforcement officials related.

The 26-year-old victim said she boarded the packed car at the station near the corner of Red Cross Place and Cadman Plaza East at 9:35 am. Her purse was hanging on her shoulder behind her and she was bumped several times before the train pulled away from the station, police said.

The car thinned out at the next stop, and the woman said she was not bumped or

crowded after that. But when she came above ground in Manhattan, her bank sent her a text message telling her someone had used her credit card without permission, a police report says. The missing Coach wallet contained debit, credit, and gift cards, a half-book of stamps, and \$40 in cash, the report says.

Locker liquidate

A burglar broke into a fitness buff’s locker inside a gym on Duffield Street on April 11, authorities reported.

The 54-year-old fellow told cops he locked up his locker at the business between Fulton Mall and Wiloughby Street at 2:36 pm and went for a workout. When he returned at 4 pm, his stuff was gone, according to a police report. The man’s phone, watch, bracelet, ring, reading glasses, keys, and wallet were all stolen, he said.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill Bigdope

A worker at a DeKalb Avenue medical center has been stealing opiates on the job for the past three months, according to his bosses.

Officials at the hospital between Fort Greene and Ashland Place told police that a staff member had been using the computer code and password to dispense morphine and hydro-morphine from a machine without a doctor’s order from Jan. 10 through April 7.

The drugs cost a total of \$7,154, according to a police report. No one has yet been arrested for the long drip of meds.

Take-out taken

A hungry villain robbed a Clinton Hill Chinese-food delivery guy on Lefferts Place on April 18, taking his cash and his food, cops said.

The food courier told police he went to drop off his goods at an apartment between Grand Avenue and Saint James Place at 9:05 pm. When he showed up, three guys suddenly approached from behind.

“Don’t move, I got a gun,” one said, according to a police report.

The fiends ushered the delivery man into the lobby, and grabbed his cash and grub, the report says.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Double trouble

Cops nabbed two teens who they say committed a pair of robberies in Fort Greene on April 15.

Police claim the duo first stuck in the lobby of a building on Washington Avenue, between Willoughby and DeKalb avenues, where they relieved a 29-year-old man of his phone at 5:34 pm and vamoosed.

The terrible twosome popped up 25 minutes later in Fort Greene Park, near the corner of DeKalb and S. Portland avenues, according to the authorities. The 36-year-old victim told police the guys approached him near the tennis court and tried to snatch the phone out of his hand.

He fought back until one of the suspects told him, “Let it go man, or we’re going to do something,” according to a police report. The victim complied and the fellows fled toward DeKalb Avenue, cops said.

Officers pinpointed the suspects by tracing the signal of the first stolen phone not long after the dust had settled, they said.

Blade runners

A group of knife-wielding goons held up a man on Washington Avenue on April 16 and made off with \$590, police said.

The 49-year-old victim told cops he was walking home near Fulton Street at 11:30 pm when one of the villains approached and flashed a big blade.

“I came to collect,” the fiend said, according to a police report.

Two more scoundrels joined then, also showing steel and threatening the victim, the report says.

The first ruffian pulled the cash from the guy’s pocket, then slashed his jacket with the knife, cops said.

The sharp bunch took off on Washington Avenue towards Gates Avenue, according to the authorities.

No safe space

Cops reported two separate home invasions in the precinct last week.

First, a dastardly duo

pushed their way into a senior’s N. Oxford Walk home on April 17, according to law enforcement officials.

The 78-year-old victim reported he was sitting in his apartment between Myrtle and Park avenues when he heard a knock at the door. When he answered, a man and woman barged in.

“I don’t want to hurt you,” one supposedly said. “Give me your wallet.”

The invaders went into the victim’s bedroom and found \$400 in his wallet, a report says.

In the second incident, another 78-year-old man was home with his girlfriend on April 18 when three punks muscled their way into his Fleet Walk abode.

The elderly victim, who lives between Navy and Prince streets, said he was in his home with his girlfriend when he heard a knock at the door. He answered and a treacherous trio ran into his apartment, according to a police report. The fiends tied up the two victims and showed a small black and silver handgun, the report says.

“Don’t f----- look at me, or I’ll blow your head off,” one of the punks hissed, according to the report.

The goons grabbed some gold chains off the guy’s neck, took the lady’s cellphone, and found a pouch in the man’s waistband that contained \$800 in cash, police stated.

Pitchfork review

Cops arrested a 44-year-old man who they say assaulted a stranger with a dog leash, a knife, and a pitchfork on Washington Avenue on April 17.

The 49-year-old victim reported he was standing near the corner of Myrtle Avenue at 8 pm when someone whipped him in the face with a dog leash. When he looked at the guy who did it, the suspect revealed a large knife and a pitchfork, and said he was going to kill him, cops said.

The man with the pointy cargo fled, but cops picked him up soon after, though not before he flailed around and swung his arms at officers, according to a report.

Labor waster

A bandit removed the appliances from an Irving Place home between April 10 and April 16, police reported.

The 31-year-old homeowner said she locked up the pad between Putnam and Gates avenues at 2 pm on April 10 and returned at 10 am on April 16 to find the stove, washer, dryer, and microwave all missing, cops said.

— Matthew Perlman

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights Unsafe act

Two burglars made off with a lockbox from a 12th Avenue residence on April 15, police reported.

Surveillance tapes show two male prowlers breaking down the basement door of the home between 79th and 80th streets at 10 am, then grabbing a safe loaded with thousands of dollars in jewelry, a report says.

Tired out

A bandit jacked the tires and rims from a Honda Accord parked on 97th Street sometime overnight on April 17, according to cops.

The victim told police he left the vehicle near Marine Avenue at 9 pm, and returned at 8:40 the next morning to find it up on cinder blocks, police stated.

Purse purloin

A crook lifted a woman’s purse from atop her stroller inside Leif Ericson Park on April 19, authorities said.

The victim reported that she was sitting in the green space near the corner of 66th Street and Eighth Avenue with the perambulator at 6:40 pm when she realized her bag was gone and, with it, her credit cards and Samsung Notebook.

Brand-new key

Cops cuffed a man who they claim picked up a set of lost keys on Fort Hamilton Parkway and stole someone’s car on April 17.

The victim told police he dropped his keys between 90th and 91st streets at 8:45 am. When he realized they were missing moments later, they were gone, as was his car, law enforcement officials said.

Police say that a witness told them when they arrived on the scene that the defendant had grabbed the keys, jumped in the victim’s car, and sped off. Cops say they apprehended the suspect in the vehicle a few blocks away.

Gouge away

Authorities arrested a man who they say stabbed two of his peers on Fourth Avenue on April 15.

Police report watching the accused take a knife from his car parked between 100th and 101st streets at 3:05 am, then seeing the suspect stick the blade into two other men nearby. Cops say they slapped the cuffs on the man in custody moments later.

— Will Bredderman

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside Action

An opportunistic thief stole a man’s Mercedes Benz when he left it running to visit a McGuinness Boulevard movie set on April 14, police reported.

The 38-year-old stated that he left his luxury car running and the door unlocked when he went into a set location parking lot between Green and Huron streets at 9:30 pm. He was inside for about five minutes and, when he came out, he saw a man rummaging through the car.

When the bandit caught sight of the owner, he drove off, speeding down Huron Street the wrong way, a report says. Police later found the car undamaged at the corner of Dupont Street and Franklin Street with the key still in the

ignition, officers said.

Bad romance

Cops cuffed a man who they say strangled a woman on Manhattan Avenue on April 14 when she refused to have a drink with him, then stole her purse in an attempt to stop her from reporting the crime.

The 36-year-old victim told police that she was standing on the corner Calyer Street at 7 pm when a man she was with demanded that he come with her to have a drink. The woman told police that when she refused, the man started choking her.

She started walking towards the 94th Precinct station house and the man started trailing her and tried to steal her purse off of her shoulder to prevent her from going to the station, a report says. The woman struggled, got her property back, and reported the man, police said. The 37-year-old suspect was charged with attempted robbery and domestic violence strangulation.

Another brute

A man was arrested after police say he bear-hugged a woman from behind on Roebling Street on April 18, and then stole her iPhone.

The 31-year-old victim said she was at the corner of N. Seventh Street at 9:50 pm when a stranger suddenly put his arms around

her from behind. He held her tight, then pried the gadget from her hands and ran off, she told cops.

Police tracked the accused to the corner of Hooper Street and S. Third Street, where he dropped the phone and ran, according to a report. The 22-year-old was charged with robbery and the woman got her phone back, the report states.

Pizza dough

A quartet of robbers attacked a pizza delivery driver on Kingsland Avenue on April 18, severely beating him before stealing his cash, police said.

The 24-year-old victim reported that he was delivering pizza to a public housing development between Frost and Jackson streets at 8:30 pm when a fiend grabbed him from behind and body-slammed him. The lout then punched him in the face and ripped off his back pocket, taking the \$90 that was in it, according to a report.

Three others came up and kicked the delivery man in the face and body, cops said.

Ugly

Cops cuffed a man who they say beat a lady with a stick on Java Street between Manhattan Avenue and McGuinness Boulevard on April 14.

— Danielle Furfaro

CAMERAS...

Continued from page 1

basic privacy. The borough’s pro-government-monitoring climate was made clear last year by a poll showing that four out of five borough residents favor more cameras.

The \$600,000 Councilman Carlos Menchaca (D–Sunset Park) plans to put toward the police-controlled devices is 10 times the amount he will allot for a

community room in the Sunset Park library branch.

Residents voted from March 30 to April 6 about how to dispense more than \$2 million. The results were announced on April 15 at the Red Hook library branch, which is getting \$85,000 for its community garden thanks to the vote.

The number and location of the cameras is still be-

WIFI...

Continued from page 1

ple’s phones and electronic tablets, as is popular among teenagers and, increasingly, politicians, celebrities, and people’s moms. “The center of the universe is now being connected to the globe.”

Most of the network’s \$150,000 price tag is being footed by the city’s Economic Development Corporation through a grant program aimed at creating corridors of wireless access throughout the city.

The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership and a trio of digital communications companies installed 30 pieces of equipment for the first phase of the project. The gadgets look like antennae and are affixed to the tops of buildings and streetlights all along Fulton Street.

The current coverage blankets an area bounded by Schermerhorn Street, Cadman Plaza West, Flatbush Avenue, and Tillary Street.

Students and faculty at nearby Long Island University, on DeKalb Avenue and Flatbush Avenue Extension, see the new network as an extension of their campus.

“It’s great. Now we can come down here and do work,” said Natasha Lewis, who works in the school’s student-life office. “And

it makes the mall a bigger hangout.”

Ann Phanor, a respiratory therapy student at the school, likes the idea of getting things done in the open air.

“The hot-spot makes it accessible,” she said. “It’ll be nice, especially when it warms up outside.”

The Partnership hopes to roll out an even bigger Downtown network over the next couple of months. It is also offering local businesses free wifi equipment so they can provide customers free internet access without eating up their commercial bandwidth.

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Pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") has proposed the sale of the following City-owned property (collectively, "Disposition Area") in the Borough of Brooklyn:

Address	Block/Lots
1619 Lincoln Place	1387/57

Under HPD's Multifamily Preservation Loan Program, sponsors purchase and rehabilitate City-owned vacant and/or occupied multifamily buildings in order to create affordable rental housing units with a range of affordability. Construction and permanent financing is provided through loans from private institutional lenders and from public sources, including HPD.

HPD has designated S-Five Properties LLC ("Sponsor") as qualified and eligible to purchase and redevelop the Disposition Area under the Multifamily Preservation Loan Program. HPD proposes to sell the Disposition Area to the Sponsor at the nominal price of one dollar per tax lot. The Sponsor will then rehabilitate 1 multiple dwelling in the Disposition Area. When completed, the project will provide approximately 6 rental dwelling units.

The appraisal and the proposed Land Disposition Agreement and Project Summary are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-08, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on May 14, 2014, at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed sale of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than seven (7) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.



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ZINES

Kinky Kinkos

Leave it to the Brooklyn's indie magazine festival to promote big bushes and little breasts.

The Brooklyn Zine Fest, which features DIY books and magazines, is looking decidedly lurid this year with the inclusion of "Tsurufoto Nudiezine," a photospread magazine that aims to celebrate all aspects of womanhood.

"We don't like the idea that women should subscribe to society or that bulls---," said "Tsurufoto Nudiezine"

photographer and editor Aaron Tsuru. "It is a big 'f--- you' to society, to say 'you can't tell them what to do.'"

To reach his lofty goals, Tsuru has photographed hundreds of Brooklyn women in various stages of undress to grace the pages of his magazine.

One issue focuses on women with "itty bitty" breasts, while another is resplendent with photos of women who keep their pubic grooming style au naturel. Past editions of the photocopied, black-and-white magazines have also included nude-lady-themed caption contests, mazes, and paint-by-numbers activities.

Tsuru — not his real name — moved to Brooklyn from Florida by way of Columbus, Ohio, and along the way, he found many unsatisfying outlets for his photography habit. While he was in Columbus, he encountered a small zine shop and realized that it was a good way to get his photography out into the world.

He has since put out 29 issues of the zine since 2010, with no signs of slowing down. "I have this stuff in my brain and I have to get it out," said Tsuru. "What else am I going to do with it — put it on Tumblr?"

This year, the Brooklyn Zine Fest will be held on April 26 and 27 at the Brooklyn Historical Society, with a new crop of vendors and books each day.

"The zine community has been growing in the past few years and we wanted to give as many people the chance to participate as possible," festival co-founder Kseniya Yarosh said of the jump to two days.

Brooklyn Zine Fest at the Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierpont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklynzinefest.com]. April 26 and 27 from 11 am–6 pm. Free. — **Danielle Furfaro**

PODCAST

Get 'Lost'

"Lost" is not so lost to fans anymore.

A Greenpoint musician has teamed up with his Floridian bandmate to create a podcast that revisits the cult ABC television series.

"Lost" has not been on air for four years, but since its launch in Feb., the digital radio show has built enough of a following that the pair is now taping an episode in front of a live audience at Union Hall on April 25.

The twosome said the distance from the sci-fi staple's final episode in 2010 has actually made it easier to offer fearless and impartial critiques of the episodes and their outlandish storylines.

"We're a little more critical now that we're not watching it during the cultural sweep of 'Lost,'" said Chris Farren, co-creator of the "Back to the Island" podcast. "You were willing to let a lot more slide then because you were so stoked."

Farren and his fellow podcaster Jeff Rosenstock were recording a record for their band Antartigo Vespucci in February when they decided to binge-watch a show and record a podcast about it. The duo thought about dissecting the HBO fantasy series "Game of Thrones," but ultimately decided to re-watch "Lost," a show following jet passengers who crash on a mysterious, monster-infested island.

In the podcast, the two buddies and their friends lightheartedly review some of the show's most loved and despised episodes. In re-watching the entire series, Farren and Rosenstock said they have completely flipped on characters they previously liked.

The podcasters said they are thrilled to have built enough of a fan base to attend their first live taping.

"We always end up sounding cynical," Rosenstock said, laughing. "We're just doing a silly thing and we haven't had a famous celebrity or anything come on, so it's really fun that everyone cares."

"Back to the Island" at Union Hall [702 Union St. near Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com]. April 25 at 7 pm. \$8. — **Megan Riesz**

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

(718) 260-2500 **The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the of Kings** April 25–May 1, 2014



In my day: DJs Jim Taylor, Leah Taylor Dunbar, Liz Raftery, and Russ Marshalek will kick out the jams your dad loves at Glasslands on April 25.

Pop's poppin'

The 'Dad Jams' DJs spin tracks only a father could love

By **Max Jaeger**
The Brooklyn Paper

Someday you'll thank them for this.

The cadre of DJs behind a cult online radio station dedicated to "dad jams" will spin tunes fit for working on cars, barbecuing, and handing down life lessons at Glasslands on April 25. The organizers say the night will pay homage to the ideal of the "dad," more so than any of their specific fathers.

"It's not about your dad, it's about the quintessential Dad," said DJ Liz Raftery. The actual definition of a "dad jam" is hotly debated, but Raftery interprets it as music "Dad" enjoyed when he was your age.

"Basically any song with a saxophone solo and a male vocalist is fair game," she said.

Bands featured on the night will include Fleetwood Mac, Steely Dan, and perennial pops favorites Hall & Oates. Just don't expect to hear "Hotel California," because Dad's tastes are more refined than that, another DJ said.

"Of course there's no Eagles allowed, because Dad doesn't like the Eagles — he likes Don Henley's solo stuff," said Russ Marshalek.

The collective has created some special-edition posters to give away at the event, and Marshalek said he plans to hand out

You call that music?

The tunes of the fathers shall be visited upon the sons (and daughters).

The "Dad Jams" night at Glasslands got us wondering — just what is a "dad jam?"

The Brooklyn Paper's staff turned to the men most versed in music from the pre-digital era — our own progenitors — to find out what pops likes to spin when he has the turntable all to himself.

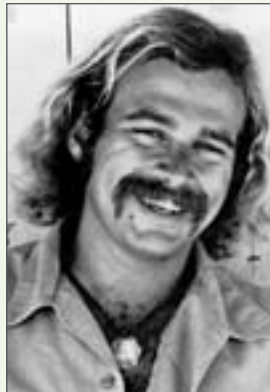
Greenpoint correspondent Danielle Furfaro's padre, An-

tonio, said Italian tenor **Andrea Bocelli** takes the cake. Molto bello!

Downtown reporter Matthew Perlman's pop, Steve, likes to take it easy with the **Eagles**.

We heard through the grapevine that Bill Bredderman, Jr., who sired Bay Ridge news-hawk Will Bredderman III, thinks any time is the right time for **Creedence Clearwater Revival**.

Park Slope journo Megan



Son of a son of a sailor:

One in seven Brooklyn Paper staffers' dads agree, Jimmy Buffett songs are the jam.

Riesz's dad, Charlie, can't get enough **Jimmy Buffett** when he's grilling up a cheese-burger.

Tom Jaeger likes the lads from Liverpool so much he played **the Beatles'** "Revolution #9" on repeat while Marine Park reporter Max Jaeger napped as a toddler. Weird.

Richard Brown, father of arts editor Ruth Brown, likes his jams swinging and said the **Duke Ellington Orchestra** is king in his book.

And deputy editor Nathan Tempey's old man, Damon, said he can't get enough of **Johann Sebastian Bach** as played by synth whiz Wendy Carlos on her breakthrough album "Switched-On Bach."

a crate of records that he has no room for — definitely a dad move. And both are free, which is good, because money doesn't grow on trees.

The "Dad Jams" clan is encouraging people to dress up for the night, but one of the DJs said the Williamsburg aesthetic will really raise the bar for im-

pressively dad-like duds.

"Sadly, hipsters have appropriated the dad look, so I think it's going to be tough to stand out," said Erin Litt.

It all may sound overly ironic, but organizers say they are motivated by nostalgia, and their love of the dad jams they play is sincere.

"It's safe to say we're all genuine fans of this music," Raftery said.

"Dad Jams Live In New York" at Glasslands (289 Kent Ave. between S. First and S. Second streets, www.theglasslands.com). April 25 at 11:30 pm. \$5. Send song requests to dadjams1965aolemail@gmail.com.

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
April 25

Comic standup
Why read comics when you can see them live on stage? Chicago reading series "Brain Frame" returns to Brooklyn, where a host of local comic artists will interpret their paper-based works as performances. The night promises to include comics done as an R&B song, a quiz, a rap, and a sculpture.

8 pm at Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklynhistory.org]. \$8.

SATURDAY
April 26

All's fair
The sun is finally out, which means it is outdoor fair season in Brooklyn. The Prospect Park Fair leads the charge, with a day of food trucks and family-friendly activities. Park lovers of all ages can play 19th-century lawn games, while kids can get their face painted, meet the Brooklyn Cyclones' Sandy the Seagull, and enjoy the unique stylings of Uncle Majic "the hip hop magician."

11 am–4 pm at the Prospect Park Bandshell [Ninth Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 683-5600, www.prospectpark.org]. Free.

SUNDAY
April 27

Play the 'Rent'
How is the Gallery Players gonna pay? Last year's rent? Perhaps with this production of the popular '90s musical. The Park Slope company promises to have "reinvented" the show, with nary a striped scarf in sight. This performance will be followed by a discussion about the play and the AIDS epidemic.

3 pm at Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 595-0547, www.galleryplayers.com]. \$14–\$18.

TUESDAY
April 29

Bite into Brooklyn
Dine out at dozens of Brooklyn eateries and bars in one night, when the annual "Tasting Brooklyn" event returns. Snack and sip on unlimited samples from the likes of Martha, Dosa Royale, Luke's Lobster, Baked, Tchoup Shop, the Pines, and many more, while listening to tunes from DJ Nutritious.

6:30–9 pm at the Green Building [452 Union St. between Bond and Nevins streets in Gowanus, www.brooklyn-exposed.com/tasting-brooklyn]. \$55–\$80.

THURSDAY
May 1

Jewish jazz
Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi celebrates the intermarriage of klezmer and jazz music from the 1920s to '50s at "Jews, Jazz and Pastrami." The tunes harken back to an era when, the organizers say, "Jewish musicians learned to speak 'jive', while African American musicians ... dug the Jewish deli cuisine after their gigs."

7 pm at the Central Library [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100, www.bklynpubliclibrary.org]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, APRIL 25

TALK, FOOD BOOK FAIR BOOK-STORE: A curated selection of food books and periodicals, salon-style talks with chefs and authors. Free. 10:30 am–8 pm. Wythe Hotel [80 Wythe Ave. at North 11th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 747-4493].

ART, "100 WORKS ON PAPER": See work from more than 100 artists who have donated work in support of Kentler Gallery's annual benefit, May 17. Free. Noon–5 pm. Kentler International Drawing Space [353 Van Brunt St. between Wolcott and Dikeman streets in Red Hook, (718) 875-2098, www.kentlergallery.org].

ART, "DRESSED IN LIGHT": Peter Le Grand's infrared nude photographs shot over the course of more than two decades. Free. 1–6 pm. Armature Art Space [316 Weirfield St. between Irving and Knickerbocker avenues in Bushwick, (646) 926-2764, www.armatureartspace.org].

ART, ARNE SCHREIBER: "Your Stripes": Lines drawn on the floor create a transitional zone between different types of spaces, areas and their edges. Free. 2 pm–6 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. near Sixth Avenue in South Slope, (646) 279-3969, www.opensource-gallery.org].

READING, BLACK FRANCES AND JOSH FRANK: Pixies frontman Black Francis and co-author Josh Frank celebrate their new novel, "The Good Inn." \$10. 8 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com].

MUSIC, THE FEELIES: \$25. 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse.com].

MUSIC, 1990S ONE-HIT WONDERS SING-ALONG: Dance-off and sing along to 90's classics from Marky Mark, Hanson, Oasis, Chumbawamba and more. \$10. 9:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhall.com].

MON, APRIL 28

READING, "NYC VS. SF": Julia Rothman and Wendy MacNaughton, authors of "Hello, New York," and "Meanwhile, in San Francisco," moderated by Maria Popova of BrainPickings.org. Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com].

MUSIC, FRANKIE COSMOS, TOONS, ESKIMEAUX: \$10. 8:30 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg, www.glasslands.com].

COMEDY, STAND UP COMEDY: Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131, www.freddysbar.com].

TUES, APRIL 29

READING, NIKIL SAVAL: Author of "Cubed," in conversation with Chad Harbach. Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com].

"SHUCK YEAH!": Oysters, food, and cocktails to benefit Neighbors Allied for Good Growth. Also: shucking contests, arm wrestling, and other fun and games. \$75. 7–10:30 pm. Brooklyn Brewery [79 North 11th St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, www.brownpapertickets.com/event/633017].

COMEDY, "THE FANCY SHOW": Producers Michael Joyce, Langston Kerman, Lane Pieschel, Simmons McDavid and Jenny Zigrino share the stage with local talent. Free. 8 pm. Bar Reis [375 Fifth Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Park Slope, (718) 974-2412].

MUSIC, "THE WAY YA LIKE" OPEN MIC: Local bands, musicians, singers, artists, and poets ply their craft on an open stage. Play or just listen. Free. 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway, between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-6343, www.myspace.com/goodbyebluemondayinc].

COMEDY, "PUNCH YOUR FACE" COMEDY SHOW: Local talent hosted by Jason Burke and Andrew Short. \$6. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhall.com].

MUSIC, THE RANGE, NATASHA KMETO, HIRSHI B2B KROBA (ARCHIE PELAGO/MISTER SATURDAY NIGHT/PERCUSSION LAB): \$10. 11:30 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg, www.glasslands.com].

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Listed:
SRDS

Slicing into spring

Sword demo hits cherry blossom fest



Battle of the blossoms: Yoshi Amao, left, and Saori Goda, face off in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

This guy is a cut above the rest. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is throwing its 33rd annual “Sakura Matsuri” cherry blossom festival on April 26 and 27. And the fest’s longtime master of ceremonies and resident sword expert said this year should be the best yet.

“It’s getting bigger and bigger every year,” said Yoshi Amao, who first started working the festival in 2003. “When I started it was very quiet.” Amao teaches a performative version of samurai sword fighting called tate, which he and his partner Saori Goda will show off at the festival on both Saturday and Sunday. Amao said he tries to in-

ject his performance with humor as well as information. The sword slinger said striking a balance between tradition and entertainment is the key. “If it’s only traditional, people will get bored,” he said. “But it’s not just fun fake stuff. It’s real and traditional.” In recent years, “Sakura Matsuri” has also incor-

CULTURE
“Sakura Matsuri” at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden [990 Washington Ave. between President and Carroll streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-7200, www.bbg.org]. April 26–27 from 10 am–6 pm. \$25 adults, \$20 students and seniors.

porated aspects of modern Japanese pop-culture into its festivities. This means a contingent of costume enthusiasts — known as “cosplayers” — will show off their elaborate outfits, while a manga artist will hold workshops and draw portraits. The artist, Misako Rocks, grew up in Japan but now lives in Prospect Heights. She said this year’s festival is coming at the perfect time — just as the cherry blossoms are blooming. “Usually the blossoms are a little before or a little after. But it’s just the right time this year,” she said. Rocks said the audience that comes out the garden is more diverse than the crowd she usually draws for workshops and at comic book conventions. And she appreciates the combination of traditional Japanese culture with more modern elements. Amao said this mixture is very apt for a festival celebrating all things Land of the Rising Sun. “That’s Japan,” he said. “The old and the new.”

Cherry picking

If samurai swords aren’t your preferred way to welcome in the darling buds of May (well, late April), the “Sakura Matsuri” festival has dozens of other performances and hands-on activities on offer. Here are five events we will not be missing.

Drum minors: There will be a number of performances of Japanese Taiko drumming across the weekend, but the NY Taiko Aiko Kai Kids’ Team will feature youngsters, making it the most adorable one.
April 26 at 11:30 am.

Snack attack: Stock up on “wagashi” — Japanese cookies, cakes, and confections typically served with tea — from Manhattan’s Minamoto Kitchoan. Expect bean paste, rice cakes, and fruits such as yuzu and persimmon to feature in the dainty eye-catching delicacies.
April 26 and 27 at 10 am–5 pm.

Art class: Brooklyn manga artist Misako Rocks (“Bike Girl,” “Rock and Roll

Love,” “Detective Jermain”) will teach classes for both kids and adults on how to draw in the distinctive comic style.
April 26 at 1:30 pm (kids) and 2:45 adults; April 27 at noon (kids), 1:30 pm (adults), 2:45 (adults).
Pop-inawa: Colorfully outfitted Okinawan musical group the Ryukyu Chimdon Band fuses Western pop with traditional songs from the Ryukyu Islands.
April 27 at 4 pm.

Players club: The annual “Cosplay Fashion Show” is always a highlight of the festival, with costuming enthusiasts taking to the runway dressed as anime characters and mythical creatures.
April 27 at 5:15 pm.



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Soy smelly: Outerborough’s Carson Yiu will be serving up the Taiwanese delicacy stinky tofu at the “Taiwanese Night Market” on April 25.

Market cooks up a stink

Taiwanese foodie event serves smelly speciality

By Sarah Iannone
for The Brooklyn Paper

“Your food stinks!” is not an insult to this cook.

The “Taiwanese Night Market” returns to Williamsburg for a third year on April 25, and one vendor plans on making its presence known with a dish that is exactly what it advertises — stinky tofu.

“I want to introduce this dish to adventurous eaters and people who are willing to submit to something new,” said Carson Yiu, the founder of Smorgasburg staple Outerborough, which has been at all the previous night markets.

It might sound off-putting to many Westerners, but stinky tofu is considered a delicacy in Taiwan, explained Yiu. His mother brought a secret recipe with her to the United States, and now supplies most of the restaurants in Flushing, Queens, with their stinky tofu.

“I grew up hating it, but mom decided to make it a business and my love started to grow,” he said.

The dish is created by taking fresh tofu and fermenting it for a few days in vegetable culture, Yiu explained. It is then dried and fried until it is crispy, and served with pickled cabbage and a house-made sauce created with soy, hoisin, and Sriracha.

If you think that doesn’t sound so weird — think again.

“The flavor resembles an old sweaty sock that married blue cheese,” said Yiu.

Alongside Outerborough, there will be 11 other Taiwanese-inspired food stands at the night market, including street vendor A-Pou Dumpplings, returning favorite Ta-icken Chicken, and Long Island sandwich shop General Tso’ Boy — which makes Asian-influenced po’boy sandwiches.

One of the event’s organizers said the market was created to give both fearless and

DINING

“Taiwanese Night Market” at the Villain (50 N. Third St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, www.nightmarket.tapny.org), April 25 at 7–10 pm. \$40.

first-time foodies the chance sample new food and experience different cultures.

“The genesis of this event stems from our desire to create a great experience for our attendees,” said Alex Shih, external vice president of Taiwanese American Professionals New York.

The event is also an opportunity for new and upcoming vendors to gain experience and exposure, he said.

“Some of our vendors are debuting or still in the early stages of their business, so we feel an obligation to give them their time to shine,” said Shih.

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

Glorietta Baldy in Bed-Stuy is the latest beer bar from the owners of Bar Great Harry, Mission Dolores, and Owl Farm.



All the bars have pinball.

And they all serve great beer, though Glorietta Baldy only offers 12 on draft (mostly \$6) instead of the 20+ options at the others.

But in its favor, it has:

- ① Food! Rotating vendors sell food 6pm–midnight several nights a week.
- ② A seasonal cocktail menu with local and house-infused liquors! I loved the crisp “Parental Consent” w/ Greenhook Beach Plum Gin, lime juice, and ginger beer (\$9).
- ③ A stuffed raven giving dangerous advice: DRINK MORE – quoth the raven.

Glorietta Baldy [502 Franklin Ave. between Fulton Street and Jefferson Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 389–3904, www.502franklinbar.com]. Open Mon–Thu, 4 pm–4 am; Sat–Sun, 2 pm–4 am.

Pole position

Pole dancing gets theatrical

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

DANCE

“She IS” at secret Williamsburg location. May 1 and 2 at 8:30 pm. Tickets and more information at www.thepulseproject.com.

Pole dancing is no longer just for strippers and Lindsay Lohan. A Brooklyn dance company is bringing a gritty pole dancing show to a secret Williamsburg space on May 1 and 2, in the hopes of flipping the art’s strip-club stereotype on its head and proving that its performances are fit for the legitimate stage.

“It’s a reimagining of what pole dancing can be in the theater world,” producer Alice Dugan said. “We want to be able to have a show where people go for a ‘pole dance’ show, and they go out of thinking, ‘I didn’t even remember that there were poles there.’”

The Pulse Project, founded by for-

mer Brooklyn Academy of Music choreographer and aerialist Brook Notary in 2011, has already put on two shows drawing inspiration from a host of movement and dance styles, including acrobatics and parkour. The company’s third and upcoming performance, “She IS,” will feature a bevy of vignettes set to the tunes of Jimi Hendrix and Beyonce. The entire spectacle has a distinctly urban and female vibe, said Dugan.

“It’s going to be an incredibly in-



Proud pole dancers: Director Alice Dugan, front, and her dancers during a rehearsal of the Pulse Project’s upcoming show “She IS.”

dustrial feel, from color to theme,” she said. “It’s really conceptually different.”

The all-woman cast, helmed by 2012 U.S. pole dance champion Michelle Stanek, will utilize ropes, scaffolding, and even the performers’ own shirts and socks, which they will use to slip around the poles.

Dugan said that pole dancing inspires female empowerment and that the art’s negative connotations are bogus.

“It makes you feel incredibly in control of yourself,” Dugan said. “For us, we really like people to understand that it’s an extension of the body.”

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

nized by Adrian Chen and other internet obsessives. \$3. 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-housenyc.com.

THURS, MAY 1

FILM, SCREENING & TALK: “The Phantom Tollbooth: Beyond Expectations,” followed by talk with Author Norton Juster, hosted by Jon Scieszka. 6 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pier-report St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklyn-history.org.

COMEDY, FREESTANDING STANDUP: Weekly comedy series with local talent and lots of hilarity. **Free.** 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway, between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453–6343], www.myspace.com/goodbyebluemondayinc.

MUSIC, LAINIE FEFFERMAN’S “HERE I AM”: Ten-piece rock oratorio and meditation on nine often ignored portions of the Hebrew Bible. \$20. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. near Third Avenue in Fort Greene], lainiefefferman.com.

FRI, MAY 2

MUSIC, “CARMINA BURANA”: Grace and Spiritus Chorale perform Carl Orff’s acclaimed cantata. \$15 (\$12 students, seniors). 7 pm. St. Ann’s & the Holy Trinity Church [157 Montague St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707–1411], www.graceandspiritus.org.

ART, “BAD CREDIT”: Drawings and paintings by Mike Taylor examining intersections of race and class, belief and misinformation in the American South. **Free.** 7–10 pm. Wayfarers [1109 Dekalb Ave. near Malcolm X Boulevard in Bedford-Stuyvesant], www.brooklynwayfarers.org.

SAT, MAY 3

THEATER, “LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR”: Opera in the Slope featuring will stage a condensed, full-costume version of Donizetti’s classic. \$18 in advance (\$20 at the door). 5 pm. Old First Reformed Church [729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 407–9872].

MUSIC, KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY: Traditional Kentucky Derby fare and live music from Victory Over Sound, Wide Right, the Mitchells, and the James Rocket. **Free.** 8 pm. Hank’s Saloon [46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625–8003], www.exitive.com/hankssaloon.

TALK, SEAN CARNEY: Writer and director Sean Carney a talk curated by the Jonathan Kalb and the Theatre For a New Audience. **Free.** 5:15 pm. Polinsky Shakespeare Center [262 Ashland Pl. between Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (212) 229–2819], www.tfana.org.

A break with convention

Neighbors vow to keep tycoon from opening meeting complex

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A controversy-dogged developer whose Greenpoint industrial complex mysteriously burned down eight years ago is planning a convention center that has begun construction in the neighborhood, to the chagrin of neighbors who are vowing to fight the complex.

The planned Greenpoint Expo Center is a project of real estate mogul Joshua Guttman, whose Greenpoint Terminal Market was gutted by a 2006 inferno that was the largest the city had seen since the Sept. 11 attacks — and whom many Greenpointers still regard with extreme distrust.

“He is the poster child for the bad landlord neighbor,” said Dewey Thompson, founder and harbor master of the North Brooklyn Boat Club. “He is totally sketchy from beginning to end.”

Guttman quickly refinished the warehouse at 79 Franklin St., at Noble Street, with a glass exterior and is now marketing the building as the future home of the Expo Center, a sort of miniature version of Manhattan’s Jacob Javits Convention Center, with moveable walls for conferences, ban-



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

The building slated to house the planned Greenpoint convention center is getting new, glass walls.

quets, and office space.

The project’s website boasts that the building is “a new concept for a historical neighborhood that is now emerging as a frontier of culture in the Brooklyn scene.”

Guttman’s massive Green-

point Terminal Market was home to a hodgepodge of artists, musicians, active industry, and derelict structures frequented by vandals and homeless people at the time of the fire that destroyed much of it. Police later arrested and convicted a homeless man for

starting the blaze, but firefighters said at the time that the flames ignited in at least five separate spots, according to neighbors. Other Guttman properties went up in smoke in the years before that.

The developer racked up more than \$4 million in fines

for failing to maintain the piers and bulkheads at the Terminal Market after the massive conflagration.

“There is nothing good about this guy,” said Greenpoint resident Michael Hoffman, who used to work at American Manufacturing, one of the factories inside Greenpoint Terminal Market. “He is completely shady.”

Neighbors say they plan to take whatever measures are available to them to keep Guttman from opening up the proposed meeting complex.

“It is good that the community is being alerted as to who is behind this, because we should be opposed to whatever he is doing,” said Thompson. “He should not get permission to open anything.”

The lot that the building occupies is zoned for commercial and residential uses and the rendering on the Expo Center’s website does not appear to show any changes to the structure’s height.

Guttman, who is also developing a boutique hotel in Dumbo, did not return repeated requests for comment.

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Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Tree advocates say screwing signs or other objects into trees can cause the tree to get sick and die.

SCREW JOB

Contractor bolts traffic signs to trees in W’burg

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A city contractor, apparently short on time or signposts, screwed metal “No Parking” signs to trees along Meserole Street in Williamsburg, angering neighbors and injuring the trees.

Empire Management and Construction, which asked the city for a permit to do construction along the block

between Graham and Manhattan avenues, bolted three of the transportation-department-issued placards to three trees to clear the work area of vehicles, to the consternation of area plant-lovers who say a threat to the air-cleaning flora is a threat to them.

“Maybe we need a public service announcement so that people understand how trees can be damaged and the cost

to replace trees,” said activist Teresa Toro. “This is not just about aesthetics. Damage to trees leads to sickness and death of the trees and that is a public health issue.”

A Department of Transportation rep said last week that the agency inspected the trees on Meserole after a reporter notified it of the situation and that it will ticket the builder.

The rep declined to say if there is a fine associated with the citation.

The city issues more than 100 sidewalk and roadway construction permits to utility companies, contractors, government agencies, and homeowners annually. The permits come with the “No Parking” signs, which, according to city rules, must be attached to posts or guardrails.

The city was not immediately sure what Empire Management and Construction’s permit was for. The company could not be reached for comment.

STORE...

Continued from page 1
Cleveland Institute of Art, but said his work in the public relations department at the Museum of Modern Art got him into drawing fanciful products.

“It germinated an appreciation for industrial design and design in general,” he said.

Today, the company’s trademark product the Mighty Wallet is sold in 60 countries, bringing in \$4 million per year, according to Kelleman.

The unique billfolds are made from a material called Tyvek, which the postal service uses for its express mail envelopes. Tyvek is paper-thin, but its plastic-like fibers make it durable, waterproof, and possible to fold into a wallet without a single stitch.

The first version of the Mighty Wallet hit the market in 2005 with a few ba-

sic designs, including one resembling a newspaper and one with the first 3,000 digits of the number pi printed on it. Once Kelleman got the process perfected, he started seeing new possibilities for the product.

“I realized that the Mighty Wallet was really a canvas,” he said.

Dynomighty now works with a network of 500 artists who all come up with graphics that can be printed on the wallets. And customers can now have their own images printed on wallets at the new store, on John Street between Bridge and Jay streets.

The Dumbo space is a place for Kelleman to test out new products, which is where the cardboard chairs come in.

He plans to show the chairs at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair next month in Manhattan and hopes to eventually sell them



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Artist Miss Zukie with the Dynomighty wallet featuring her work.

at the store. Other products on tap include change purses and clutches.

As for the shared work space, Kelleman wants the shop to become a hub for aspiring designers to work and share ideas.

“It’s a place where people can get advice and problem-solve collectively,” he said.

Anyone is allowed to just drop in and use the space,

Kelleman said.

“The business of art, and the art of business,” Kelleman said. “It’s the story of Dynomighty, and its my story. I want to share that story.”

Dynomighty store and work space [80 John St. between Jay and Bridge streets in Dumbo, www.dynomighty.com, (212) 431-3005]. Monday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm.

SPEED...

Continued from page 1
reset the timing of all of the stoplights along that stretch of road to force drivers to get into lower gears.

Politicians made the announcement at the intersection of McGuinness and Nassau Avenue, where a woman was killed by a motorist in December as she to cross the fast-paced road.

Two other pedestrians and a cyclist have also been killed on that stretch of pavement during the past six years.

Assemblyman Joe Lentol said that Mayor DeBlasio’s Vision Zero plan to reduce traffic deaths to zilch during the next decade is music to his ears after years of calling to squeeze drivers to no avail.

“I have been advocating for traffic calming measures along McGuinness Boulevard for quite some time now, with little success,” said Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D–Greenpoint). “This is the first indication that Vision Zero is making its way

into Greenpoint. I applaud DOT Commissioner [Polly] Trottenberg and Mayor DeBlasio’s approach to improving the safety of motorists,

TICKETS...

Continued from page 1
ets should not be the primary measure, though they have been the Slope cop shop’s calling card, Stephan said.

The precinct’s commanding officer said that comparing ticket totals is apples and oranges.

“Some of the precincts have different sizes of commands,” said Deputy Inspector Michael Ameri. “You can’t compare precincts to precincts. You have to be concentrated on where the accidents happen.”

One Slope road warrior echoed the notion that other neighborhoods have more reckless motorists to worry about.

“It wouldn’t surprise me

pedestrians, and cyclists through Vision Zero and I hope that this is only the beginning.”

The street is the second in Brooklyn tapped for a major slowdown in the past two weeks after Atlantic Ave-

nue, which is being designated a 25-miles-per-hour road along its entire eight miles in the borough.

The city will begin installing new signs on May 12 and has vowed to finish by the end of May.

ger problems with speeding and dangerous driving than Park Slope does,” said Eric McClure, founder of the Park Slope Street Safety Partnership. The group is pushing to make the neighborhood a 20-mile-per-hour zone.

TURN...

Continued from page 1
vated, according to our ace photographer, who caught the hair-raising turn on camera.

Drivers who want to turn onto Park Place while heading toward Prospect Park on the busy thoroughfare are supposed to make a right up at Sterling Place, another right at Seventh Avenue, and a third and final

right onto Park.

The neighborhood’s police precinct has undertaken a series of high-profile road-safety initiatives this year, including cracking down on unlicensed dollar vans and on drivers double-parking in bike lanes and failing to yield to pedestrians.

The police department did not respond to a request for comment.

perwork in order. The university refused, saying that the settlement that ended the nearly year-long court battle over the hospital’s fate absolves it of any responsibility for what happens to the hospital after May 22.

Headed by real estate developer and former clinical laboratory supervisor Merrell Schexnydre, Brooklyn Health Partners is conducting its own search for a temporary operator and looking at ways to expedite the per-

mitting process, according to the state letter. But the state’s prognosis about whether any of these measures will save the hospital from closure is negative.

Brooklyn Health Partners has pledge to employ Long Island College Hospital staffers at a temporary facility, but everybody currently working there is getting a pink slip soon, the state said.

Schexnydre did not respond to a request for comment.

LICH...

Continued from page 1
that a savior appears to be within reach.

“We expect SUNY and the Department of Health to do everything within their power to ensure that the community served by LICH is not left without a hospital for any period of time,” said Eliza Bates, spokeswoman for the New York State Nurses Associ-

ation, which sued the state to try to stop it from closing the healthcare center.

Brooklyn Health Partners, which wants to establish a temporary, 150-bed hospital while it builds a new 300–400-bed facility and 1,000 apartments on the medical campus, asked the state to consider bringing in a temporary hospital operator while the new owner gets its pa-

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BP PARENT

Coming-of-age anxiety

I have a teenager.

Yes. There is a 13-year-old in my house. With smelly armpits and the faint trace of facial hair on his upper lip. My baby is getting up there.

Terror grips me. There was no pomp and circumstance on the big birthday, April 15. For breakfast I got him his favorite mince pie from Dub Pies and a birch beer and we drove in the pouring rain to Long Island. He watched movies all afternoon with his brother as the wind rattled the windows, and for dinner he was joined by three out of four grandparents, two cousins, an aunt, a brother, parents, and a dog. The ice-cream cake was delicious.

There was no barmitzvah, no ceremony where a rabbi and temple congregants congratulated him, no family and friends invited from far and wide. I am sad about this and, yet, here we are, a couple weeks away from the sleepover and paintball party that will mark my son’s coming of age. There is no going back now, no way to alter the course so that he stands at an altar at 13 to sing his Haftorah.

Gulp.

We dropped out of the temple years ago. When I look back and try to remember why, it is slightly fuzzy. It didn’t resonate enough. We weren’t involved enough. It wasn’t meaningful enough. From where I sit now, it seems I could have worked harder, but then I have always been hotheaded about dropping things when they don’t feel right, when I don’t feel like I fit in.

I never felt truly a part of Jewish ceremonies, despite having gone to temple nearly once a week for the first 17 years of my life, despite years of Hebrew School



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

and being bat mitzvah-ed. The other day, I had a couple of friends over for Passover and I could barely explain the Seder plate and what the things on it represented, despite being present at probably more than 43 Seders in so many years.

I am not proud of my lackadaisical reaction to religion. I often find myself jealous of my Modern Orthodox friends with their strict rules and traditions, the way they know what every weekend will bring and what is to be done for every special ritual.

But.

I cannot pretend to feel what I do not, and I certainly can’t ask my kids to believe in things that I cannot fully stand behind.

It is a bummer.

“Couldn’t you have just gone once a year, sent him to Hebrew school?” a neighbor asked when I lamented the route we’ve taken that has brought us here, with no great way to celebrate my teen in the community.

“Oh, I see,” another neighbor, a psychologist said, nodding, when I explained my predicament. “You need meaning.”

Yes, I thought. I need meaning. And meaning is so very personal.

I can’t say why no temple seems to offer me what I need to understand the meaning of life and to pass that on to my progeny. There are some amazing lessons to be learned in the teachings of Judaism, in the ques-

tioning. But Buddhism has its great lessons too. Jesus and Joseph Smith have both motivated a lot of people. I became a writer, I suppose, because I can see that every story has some meaning to offer. And it seems I cannot in good faith just choose the one.

I am certainly not alone in Park Slope, not being affiliated with a specific religion, at slightly loose ends for the ways in which to celebrate rites of passage because of

my failure to adopt one story. It is a problem of the loss of religion that we likewise lose traditions that can help us and our kids make sense of the changes time brings, the seasons, and the separations between one period and another.

But.

I cannot go back in time, and I would probably do it the same way all over again given half a chance, anyway. I am not one to subscribe to group rules and rituals, even though I often wish I was, even though it would give some structure to what at times feels like a sea roiling with choices. My husband grew up with no religion, so he reassures me that our kids will be fine, upstanding citizens without it. I have to believe he is right.

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